

The WSPEI Connector

February, 2024



What's Happening This Month:

This month's newsletter highlights events and conferences that are taking place as we move into spring. Key among those are many Transition Resource Fairs being held around the state.

Be sure to check out our WSPEI monthly community meetings and register to join one if you haven't had time to give them a try.

We also share important news and updates from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as well as the Family Engagement Newsletter from WI Facets.

Happy reading from The WSPEI Grant folks!



Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

WSPEI Monthly Meetings

February Session of the Family Engagement Community of Practice & Learning

Wednesday, February 14th 4:00-5:30

The CLTS Program

The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program helps children with disabilities and their families through supports and services that help children grow and live their best lives.

Join us to learn from both a county coordinator and a parent about how the CLTS program can help fund services and supports to keep children at home.

[Family Engagement Community of Practice & Learning - CLTS Program Information Flyer Registration](#)

[Family Support Community](#)

[Family Support Community Spanish](#) (Comunidad de Apoyo Familiar)

A monthly learning opportunity offered to families and other caregivers supporting a child(ren) with a disability. Meeting on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month 4-5:30 or the first Thursday morning of the month 11:30-1:00 running from September 2023 through May 2024.

FREE Networking and Learning: [REGISTER HERE to Receive ZOOM Information](#)

[Family Engagement Community of Practice](#)

A learning community for educators, administrators, statewide agencies, community partners, and families focusing on family-engagement-specific topics. Meeting the second Wednesday of the month via ZOOM 4:00-5:30 pm September 2023-May 2024.

Remaining Topics:

February 14 Basics of the Children's Long-Term Support Program & Katie Beckett

March 13 Where is the Manual? Resources that You Didn't Know About

April 10 Transitioning from Birth to 3: From IFSP to IEP May 8 Belonging Matters: Children with Complex Disabilities

FREE but registration is required! [REGISTRATION LINK](#)

WI Facets Family Engagement Newsletter

Wisconsin's Resource for assisting families of children with disabilities

This month's issue provides information about ABLE accounts and resources for students with Intellectual Disabilities

[Family Engagement Newsletter - February 2024](#)

A helpful resource from WPSEI for all families

The Student Snapshot allows families to share important information about their child with the IEP team

Statewide Conferences

[Wisconsin Transition Conference - Diversity, Equity, Disability and Inclusion! | Featured Speakers | EdEvents.org](#)

Date: February 15-16, 2024

Location: Kalamazoo Resort and Convention Center

Wisconsin Dells, WI

[2024 Annual Conference – Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin](#)

Date: April 25-27, 2024

Location: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Wisconsin Dells, WI

The conference brings the Autism community together to learn, connect, and belong.

[Employment First Conference 2024: Save the Date | Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

Date: May 21, 2024

Location: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Wisconsin Dells, WI

[Circles of Life Conference - Family Voices of Wisconsin](#)

Date: May 16-17

Location: Stevens Point, WI

This year's theme is **families building their communities**. This includes learning strategies to build a community, as well as programs and services that support families to create an inclusive community for children, teens and adult family members with disabilities. Registration coming soon.

Tis the season for Inclusion and Disability Resource Fairs

Many of these resource fairs are open to families and students of all ages. Meet with transition agencies for what is next after high school, college and career readiness, learn about DVR services, differences between supported decision making and guardianship, and more! Come see what the future holds for you!

Information flyers with location, dates and times can be found by clicking the link:

[Wauwatosa](#)

[Wausau](#)

[Franklin School District](#)

[Waukesha County Community on Transition \(C-CoT\)](#)

[Ozaukee County Community on Transition \(C-CoT\)](#)

[MPS Celebrating Abilities](#)

Taylor County Transition Day with Reverse Job Fair

Thursday April 25th from 1-3 pm

Medford Area Senior High School

RSVP with Director of Special Education and Student Services Joseph Greget at

gregejo@medford.k12.wi.us or 715-748-2316 ext 3324.

Black History Month 2024



Trainings and Events from other Statewide Agencies/Organizations

Parent to Parent Wisconsin

[Parent Support Trainings](#) These free trainings prepare you to give support to another family who is parenting a child with special needs. Trainings begin in early March. Visit the flyer for additional details

Disability Advocacy Day

Wednesday March 20th, 2024

9:30 am

Madison, WI

[Disability Advocacy Day](#)

Disability Advocacy Day is a day-long event focused on connecting Self-Advocates with their legislators to talk about issues that matter to them.

[Register Here](#)

Register today for Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition's Voter Education Series!

Lunch and Learn

February 6, 2024

12:00

[Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition](#)

[Lunch and Learn: February 2024 - Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition](#)

Wisconsin Sibs has Summer opportunities for sibs. Registrations for these programs are now open.

[Summer Programs](#) | [Sibling Intern](#)

Project SEARCH is a business led collaboration that enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration.

A 9-12 month program, Project SEARCH provides total immersion in a large community business. Students with disabilities are offered a workforce alternative for their last year of high school. All participants must be eligible for services with the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

One more Project Search Location not in previous issues of our newsletter:

[Watertown Project Search](#)

News and Updates from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

State Superintendent Calls for Investment in Special Education:

"We must set partisanship aside and invest in our public schools and the future of our kids. I am calling today for the state to increase its contribution to local districts and raise the special education reimbursement rate to 60%."

[Link to Full Article](#)

DPI School Health Services has released a new document entitled, [School Nurse Documentation in Career and College Ready IEPs](#) to assist school nurses and school administrators in understanding where and how to document a student's health needs in special education evaluations and when writing IEPs. The document is published on the School Health Services [Resources and Publications webpage](#).

Special attention is given to explaining how to document findings that address the severity and nature of the health disability and how it affects the student's involvement and progress in the general education curriculum. Therefore, parents of students with health concerns may also find the document useful.

The Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey is a survey for parents of children and youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The survey asks how well your school and IEP team engage you and your family in the IEP and special education process. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required to collect this information by federal law.

One-fifth (20%) of all school districts across the state are required to offer the survey to families each year. Ask your director of special education or pupil services if it's your district's year for the survey.

DPI will use your answers to give better services to children and youth with IEPs and their families. We need your help to do this. Parent confidentiality is important. Parent names are not connected to the answers given.

If your school district is conducting the survey this year, you will receive an informational letter that may look similar to this:

[Example of Letter to Parents](#)

Learn more about the Indicator 8 Survey at [Indicator 8 - Information for Parents/Families](#).



Chance to participate in a research study

"My name is Tracey Stanislawski, and I am a doctoral student at National University. I am conducting a research study to gain insight into the home school partnership experiences of parents of adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

I am recruiting individuals who meet all of these criteria:

You are 18 years or older.

You are the parent of an adolescent ages 10-19.

Your adolescent has an IEP from a public school in Wisconsin

or

Your adolescent has a medical diagnosis of autism

or

Your adolescent has an IEP for educational autism.

If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following activities:

Share the Parent Engagement section of your Adolescent's IEP.

Share any documents that you feel are meaningful to you in regard to family engagement.

You will be asked to participate in a zoom interview that will last no more than 60 minutes.

Review transcript via email for 20-30 minutes.

During these activities, you will be asked questions about:

Your home/school partnership experiences

Ways you receive information from your adolescent's school

Activities you are involved in at your adolescent's school

Your thoughts on your sense of belonging at school.

Your thoughts and feelings about when you may have felt did not belong.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact me at tstanislawski@outlook.com or by phone or text 414-916-3759.

Thank you for considering participating in this voluntary research!



Did you know...all past issues of the WSPEI Connector are on our website?

The WSPEI Connector Current and Past Issues

The Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (CFDA #84.027A) acknowledges the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in the development of all products or publications and for the continued support of this federally-funded grant project.



Contact us with feedback and ideas!

Email: wspei@cesa12.org

Website: www.wspei.org

Statewide phone: 833-879-7734



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